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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/041,669	01/10/2002	Satoshi Fujioka	Q68022	2951

7590 02/18/2003

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EXAMINER

TRAN, HUAN HUU

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/041,669	FUJIOKA, SATOSHI
Examiner	Art Unit	
Huan H. Tran	2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appars on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2-5 and 7-15 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 04/15/02. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Hideyuki (JP 03-251473 cited in the IDS filed on 01/10/02), Naoki et al. (JP 55-055662 cited in the IDS filed on 01/10/02), Isao et al. (JP 11-091293 cited in the IDS filed on 01/10/02).

Hideyuki discloses a recording apparatus comprising:

a suction unit (5d, 5c) for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit; and

a changing means (valve 9) for changing a sucking force of the sucking means in accordance with a property of the recording medium.

Naoki discloses a recording apparatus comprising:

a suction unit (pump) for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit; and

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a changing means (switches 6) for changing a sucking force of the sucking means in accordance with a property of the recording medium.

Isao discloses discloses a recording apparatus comprising:

a suction unit (fan) for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit; and

a changing means () for changing a sucking force of the sucking means in accordance with a property of the recording medium.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Milan et al (US Patent No. 4998715 cited in IDS filed on 06/24/02).

Milan et al disclose recording medium feeding system comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium, said suction unit having a plurality of suction ports 32 in a transporting direction of the recording medium; and

wherein when the recording medium is not transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are closed, and when the recording medium is transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are sequentially opened in accordance with transportation of a leading end of the recording medium.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2-5, 7-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huan H. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-0749. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F with alternate Friday off, from 7:30am to 5pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin Fuller can be reached on (703) 308-0079. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-3421 for regular communications and (703) 308-3421 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1749.



Huan H. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2861

hht
February 13, 2003